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it will not be possible that all the other demands could be discussed for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours each for which purpose we might want very much more than a month. But the House will do as much as it can and as far as it can accommodate itself within the general limit of time because we have to finish on the date originally notified, i.e., on the 27th March. The result of this arrangement will be that the discussion of the particular Demand XI which consists of Ministerial salaries and the Civil Secretariat under the Ministers will come on for discussion probably on the 5th or 6th day even if the full time allotted is devoted to each of the previous demands. The House will get $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours for the discussion of that particular demand. That is the arrangement at present made by His Excellency the Governor."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"In this connexion, I want to bring to your kind notice the feeling on the Opposition side of the House that the time allotted is utterly inadequate to the discussion of the reduction of the Ministerial salaries which is sure to be proposed. I may draw your kind notice to the fact that we have not had anything like a full-dress debate on the Ministerial policy and administration for a very long time past and that we, if we have to function as an opposition, must pick up an opportunity for educating the country since we are here in a minority. What after all the most important item in the present constitution is the Ministerial responsibility. I therefore make an appeal to you and to my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, to try and meet us in this matter, as is very often done, almost invariably done in the Legislative Assembly, and give us a whole day. If this has to be secured by cutting down the time allotted to any other demand by an equal amount, my friends on this side of the House will have no objection. They would like to draw very special attention of you, Mr. President and the Leader of the House, to the inadequacy of the time now provided and they would urge that a whole day be given."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"May I know, Sir, whether the demand that has been made by the Member opposite was made on behalf of himself or on behalf of the Opposition as a whole?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I have already stated that I am making it on behalf of the Opposition."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"We have authorized our hon. Friend to make this appeal."

The hon Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I presume my hon. Friend realizes that the allotment of time rests in the hands of His Excellency the Governor. No doubt it would be open to me and also to you, Sir, to bring to the notice of His Excellency the wishes expressed this afternoon. But before anything of that kind is done, I should like to know if my hon. Friend has any alternative suggestion to make. The total number of days is limited and if he can make any suggestion we can . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"He has suggested it already. I understand that they would be willing to give up half a day from any one of the three demands which are allotted one day each."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"My still further alternative is that an hour and a quarter from each of the demands, viz., Education and Civil Works, may be taken for this purpose. We have put forward all these suggestions.

"In answer to what was said by the hon. the Leader of the House, I assure him that we all know that the final disposal of this matter rests entirely with His Excellency. But since we cannot constitutionally claim direct access to His Excellency, we can only request you, Mr. President, as the representative of this House, and my hon. Friend Sir Arthur Knapp to intercede on our behalf and convey to him our wishes."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I do not know if time can be taken away from Education and Civil Works. Education and Civil Works both cover very large amounts. Especially, as regards Education, we have to deal with a large number of items and therefore we do not think we can curtail the time allotted to that."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I am sorry the hon. Member from Coimbatore is taking up this attitude. All that I can tell him is that I have consulted the Leader of the Opposition and he is agreeable to this suggestion. Sir, we are placing this suggestion before you and we want you to allot us a whole day for the purpose mentioned. I may also say that I specifically mentioned to the Leader of the Opposition that the time for Civil Works might be cut down and after I came here a similar suggestion was made to me and I have passed it on. If this suggestion is adopted, I am sure later on we can meet the Leader of the Opposition if we care to and arrange with him some feasible course. I am not stating these things as cut and dry schemes, but as suggestions for consideration."

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET—*cont.*

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Although the Madras tax-payer can congratulate himself on the fact that last year's joke—no doubt unintended—of a balanced budget was not repeated this year—and jokes do not bear repetition—I am afraid there is nothing for him to congratulate himself on the budget so lucidly presented by the hon. the Finance Member the other day. The very fact that on 1st April 1926 the indebtedness of the province with the Central Government will be Rs. 1,451·90 as compared with the Rs. 1,282·60 which it is expected to be on 1st April 1925 is enough to depress even the most optimistic among us. But from the point of view of the ryot—which is the only view-point as regards budgets—one would search in vain for any ray of hope or promise of relief.

3-45 p.m.

"As regards the departments with which he is most concerned, viz., Land Revenue, Excise, Forests, Irrigation, Local Self-Government and Village Communications and Agriculture and Co-operation, there is absolutely nothing in the present budget at which the tax-payer should rejoice or for which he should feel grateful.

"As regards Excise, I join my hon. Friend Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar in wishing that the hon. Minister for Education and, may I add, Excise, had come out with proposals for promoting the cause of temperance. In spite of the persistent demand for minimizing the drink evil in this province, the hon. Minister for Education has budgeted for nearly the normal state of revenue. He will not consider total prohibition possible at any time within his mental horizon. Even in petty matters as the location of toddy shops in the most objectionable places in mufassal towns, as in the case of Polur in North Arcot district, he will not move his little finger even when the local officials recommend their removal to less objectionable localities.

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"The forests whose existence and preservation is said to be for the benefit of the ryots, while they are so scientifically managed as to successfully keep out the ryots from deriving any benefit from them, are, at the same time so uneconomically worked as to eat away all the receipts under that head, whereas in any other civilized country in the world this magnificent natural asset would be made to yield a substantial income to Government.

"The phrase 'scientific management' is the cloak under which a whole army of 'Research officers', 'Utilization officers', 'Forest economists' and 'Exploitation officers' is entertained and the tax-payer is kept blissfully ignorant of the work turned out by these officers. The word 'Exploitation' is an ugly one sometimes.

"While the highly-paid European officers with no easily understandable duties have been multiplied, the Indianization of the Forest Service, even to the modest extent recommended by the Islington Committee, was not given effect to except perhaps by the promotion of four or five of the Provincial Service men to the Imperial Service. But even these fortunate few did not receive the benefits which the Lee Report bestowed on their European colleagues.

"No attempt seems to be made to curtail even avoidable expenditure. To give only one instance, in spite of the fact that a large portion of the reserve forests has either been disafforested or handed over to the control of village forest panchayats, the former number of highly-paid officers and rangers are being maintained at the tax-payers' expense. There are, I understand, six supernumerary Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests and yet a special staff of Panchayat officers and Inspectors are maintained to control the panchayat forest reserves.

"Perhaps in no other country in the world can this phenomenon of maintaining a hundred highly-paid officers to control 200 rangers be found as is unfortunately the case in this benighted province. Sometimes one can hardly resist the temptation for thinking that Government, in its forest administration at least, considers that people exist for these officers and not the other way. Otherwise, it is hard to understand why when formerly there were only three circles with three Conservators in the province, after a considerable portion of the reserve has been disafforested, there should be now six Conservators.

"The Special Panchayat Officer who is a Deputy Collector and his Inspectors who have been recruited from the clerical ranks can boast of no special knowledge of forest conservation. Their work could very well be done by the regular departmental staff since a similar panchayat system guided by the departmental officers is found to work at least equally well.

"It is high time panchayat management is rapidly extended and the cost of the department reduced at a rapid rate. At any rate, the continued maintenance of a large number of high and low paid officers without any work at a heavy cost to the tax-payer, while it may be 'scientific', is neither 'economic' nor prudent.

"There seems to be a sort of curse on all commercial concerns undertaken by the Forest department. Russellkonda has been followed by Olavakkot."